

Appl. No. 09/735,186
Amdt. dated December 22, 2003
Reply to Office Action of November 28, 2003

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed November 28, 2003, wherein claims 1-42 and 44-49 were allowed pending the resolution of several formal matters and prosecution was closed pursuant to ex parte Quayle. Specifically, the Examiner has objected to Claims 11, 12, and 19-43 as lacking support as per 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c), has objected to the improper amendment of Claim 11, and has requested the original patent, or a statement of the loss of the original patent, be received before allowance of the application

In response, support for the previous claim amendments has been supplied, Claim 11 has been amended, and Applicant has submitted a statement that the original Letters Patent has been lost or inaccessible. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been entered by the amendments. **Claims 1-42 and 44-46 are pending, and Claim 43 was previously cancelled.**

PROPER SUPPORT FOR AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 11 and 12, amended December 15, 2000 and Claims 19-43, added December 15, 2000, were objected to as lacking support as per 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c). (Please note that the date indicated in the Office Action of December 15, 2001 is incorrect.) Support for the amended and new claims was originally supplied to the Examiner with the Amendment containing those changes. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant is including herewith a copy of the following papers which were previously submitted on December 15, 2000:

- PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 37 C.F.R. § 1.173; and
- STATEMENT OF STATUS/SUPPORT FOR CHANGES TO CLAIMS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c).

IMPROPER AMENDING OF CLAIMS

The Examiner has noted that Claim 11 was improperly amended in Amendment E. In response, Applicants have presented an amendment to Claim 11 correcting a typographical error in that claim. Specifically, the comma in line 2 of Claim 11 has been deleted as this punctuation mark is not necessary for interpretation of this claim. Support for the amended claim is supplied

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with the attached, newly submitted STATEMENT OF STATUS/SUPPORT FOR CHANGES
TO CLAIMS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c).

ORIGINAL PATENT REQUIRED PRIOR TO ALLOWANCE


The Examiner has requested the original patent, or a statement of the loss of the original patent, be received before allowance of the application. In response, Applicant herewith includes a REISSUE PATENT APPLICATION STATEMENT AS TO LOSS OF ORIGINAL PATENT for U.S. Patent No. 5,848,492.

In view of the remarks made above, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner should feel that a telephone interview would be productive in resolving issues in the case, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

December 23, 2003

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Respectfully submitted,



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